

Notice of Allowability

Application No.	Applicant(s)
10/010,577	THURMOND ET AL.
Examiner	Art Unit
William W. Moore	1652

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTO-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to the amendment of 15 February and the interview conducted 12 April 2004.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-6,9 and 10.
3. The drawings filed on _____ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All
 - b) Some* - c) None of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 11/03/2003
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 4/12/04.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Cancel claim 11.

Rewrite claims 6 and 10 thus:

6. (Amended) A substantially pure monkey Cathepsin S protease protein, in substantially pure form comprising the ~~an~~ amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2.

10. (Amended) A method of identifying compounds that inhibit ~~modulate~~ monkey Cathepsin S protease protein activity, comprising:

a) combining a compound suspected of being an inhibitor ~~a modulator~~ of monkey Cathepsin S protease protein activity with the monkey Cathepsin S protease protein having the an amino acid sequence set forth in ~~corresponding to~~ SEQ ID NO:2; and,

b) measuring an effect of the compound on the protease activity of the monkey Cathepsin S protease protein,

whereby an inhibitory compound is identified by a reduction in the protease activity of the monkey Cathepsin S protease.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Ms. Linda S. Evans on April 12, 2004.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The above examiner's amendment is made so that claims 6 and 10 may state a definite description of the subject matter Applicant had intended, where any Cathepsin S of any source is, perforce, a protease, and where there is no basis in the specification

for assessing the extent or nature of "correspondence" of another amino acid sequence with the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to William W. Moore whose telephone number is now 571.272.0933. The examiner can normally be reached between 9:00AM and 5:30PM EST. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ponnathapura Achutamurthy, can now be reached at 571.272.0928. The fax phone numbers for all communications for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned remains 703.872.9306. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is now 571.272.1600.

William W. Moore
April 12, 2004


NASHAAT T. NASHED PHD
PRIMARY EXAMINER